

NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 47

8 November 1949

1. The following were present:

Dr. Appleton	State
Mr. Lydman	State
Lt. Col. Ruwet	Army
Dr. Debevoise	Army
Cdr. Howell	Navy
Lt. Cdr. Nutt	Navy
Lt. Col. Wade	Air Force
	CIA (Chairman)
	CIA

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2. It was pointed out that many COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL SOURCES being received with contributions still fail to meet reasonable requirements. Some, for instance, neither appraise the principal sources nor indicate gaps in information. Others are insufficiently specific (e.g., fail to date source information and comment thereon) to be fully meaningful to users and collectors. In view of the great significance of COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL SOURCES, it was requested that the importance and nature of their content be reemphasized to contributors.

3. The Chairman reported that sections delayed in their progress through D/Ba by reason of necessity for revision or other special treatment were as follows at the end of October 1949:

State	28
Army	44
Navy	2
Air Force	2
CIA	0
Total -	76

"Delayed by reason of necessity for revision or other special treatment" means that the sections required major consultation with, or actual return to, contributors for action beyond the scope of normal editorial processing. By no means all of these sections were returned because of qualitative defects. Some were returned because of changes in decision as to basic format (e.g., chapters to sections and vice versa). Nevertheless, the relatively large percentage returned for qualitative defects indicates the necessity for improved coordination and review. This inference appears to be borne out by the fact that Chapters IX (Map and Chart Appraisal), which have been very carefully coordinated and reviewed, have, to date, been uniformly of high quality.

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4. The Chairman announced that DCI Directive 3/3, 28 October 1949, establishes the Scientific Intelligence Committee and makes the CIA Chairman thereof coordinator of NIS Chapter VII (Scientific). No reference is made to the existing NIS Chapter VII Subcommittee. The present outline and outline guide for Chapter VII will have to be revised, production responsibilities reallocated, and the NIS Chapter VII Subcommittee reorganized. The Assistant Director, OSI, is aware of this and will put the matter in hand shortly. In the meantime, production of Chapters VII should proceed as at present. However, revision of the outline and outline guide for Chapter VII should be held in abeyance until the recommendations of the new subcommittee are received. These recommendations will require the approval of the NIS Committee.

5. It was pointed out that some recipients of NIS may not understand the geographic unit method of production of Chapters II (Military Geography). For instance, the following NIS Areas are treated in Chapter II as a geographic unit:

No. 28	Syria and Lebanon
No. 29	Jordan
No. 30	Iraq
No. 31	Palestine

Thus, when copies of elements of Chapter II for this geographic unit (28-31) are issued, they are issued in quadruplicate, one each being intended for NIS 28, 29, 30, and 31. Recipients who do not understand the geographic unit method of production and who, in this instance, have not received elements of other chapters of NIS 28, 29, 30, and 31, may believe that they are receiving too many copies of Chapter II elements. Hence, it was recommended that, in instances of this nature, appropriate explanations be included in dissemination.

6. The State member introduced a copy of a basic intelligence study on Iran prepared by Headquarters Atlantic Fleet. Generally speaking, the study is similar to a Chapter I (Brief) of an NIS and probably involved the output of a substantial amount of effort. Although the publication of NIS No. 33 (Iran) is currently by no means complete, it is in progress; and, besides, a number of generally equivalent interim studies (e.g., S/R-Iran, SID-Iran, B/A Handbook-Iran) were available before the CINCLANT study was published. Further, no situation of urgency justifying the preparation of such a study is apparent. It was pointed out that, while the circumstances surrounding the conception and production of the study are possibly involved and obscure, the study nevertheless is an example of undesirable duplication of the NIS Program.

7. The members from the National Defense Agencies complained that their Agencies are still receiving requests from CIA, compliance with which requires them to do a considerable amount of work on S/R's which interferes seriously with their production of NIS. The Chairman made the following explanation of the S/R's in their relationship to NIS:

a. The S/R series was originally undertaken by CIA, before the implementation of the NIS Program, at the request of the Director of Naval Intelligence.

b. After the implementation of the NIS Program, it was decided to discontinue the S/R series except for certain S/R's concerning strategically important countries, the preparation of which was already in progress.

c. It was the understanding that the IAC Agencies were to expend no effort on these S/R's if such expenditure interfered with the production of NIS.

The members from the National Defense Agencies stated that requests from CIA regarding S/R manuscripts are still being worded in such a manner as to require the actual expenditure of effort by their agencies on the S/R's. The Chairman undertook to examine the matter and report at the next meeting.

8. A question was raised about the current validity of the Joint Staff priorities as of 27 August 1948. It was pointed out that these priorities may well have changed during the period August 1948 - November 1949 and that current priorities will be of basic importance in the coming revision of the FY 1950 NIS Production Schedule and formulation of the FY 1951 NIS Production Schedule. The Chairman undertook to ascertain from the Joint Staff any changes which may have occurred in their priorities.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for 1000 hours, Tuesday, 15 November 1949, at CIA.

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Distribution:

NIS Committee
Members (4)

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Ed.Chief, D/Ba
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Mr. Earman, JIG
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